

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 4-1WASHINGTON POST
25 November 1984

Nicaraguan Rebel Group Ousts Leader

Chamorro Had Accused CIA of Duplicity

By Edward Cody
Washington Post Foreign Service

MIAMI, Nov. 24—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel movement expelled today one of its top leaders who had accused the CIA publicly of duplicity toward Congress and the anti-Sandinista insurgents.

Adolfo Calero, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, said the group's National Directorate sent Edgar Chamorro a letter informing him of his dismissal because he had become what Calero called "a loose cannon." Chamorro confirmed that he had received the one-sentence notice in today's mail and said he thought he had been fired at the behest of the CIA.

Chamorro's removal from the seven-member directorate sealed an estrangement that began quietly last spring after younger officers took over the Honduran armed forces and ordered increased discretion for CIA-directed rebel activities in Honduras. Chamorro, who was spokesman for the rebels in Honduras, drew opposition from Honduran officers and CIA advisers because of his often frank descriptions of insurgent actions. Because of pressure from the Hondurans, Chamorro said, he was sent home and cut out of insurgent deliberations here and in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital.

The split broke into the open last month with Chamorro's revelations about a CIA manual advising rebels to "neutralize" certain Nicaragua government officials and his charges that CIA officials who helped organize the main insurgent group here two years ago committed the Reagan administration to aid in overthrowing the Sandinista government.

The statements attracted wide attention because the word "neutralize" was taken as a euphemism for assassination, which is for-

bidden by presidential directive, and because Congress has barred the agency from spending appropriations for the purpose of overthrowing the Sandinistas.

In addition, Chamorro said CIA officials coached rebel leaders on how to make a good impression with congressional opponents and avoid raising delicate issues. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit charging that this could violate U.S. statutes barring the agency from seeking to influence other government bodies.

"That's ridiculous," Calero retorted in an interview. "If we were from the hills of Tennessee, maybe we would need it. But we are from a sophisticated country."

[CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz said she would not comment on Chamorro's charges about the agency's role in organizing and assisting the rebels. With respect to the charge that CIA officials helped rebel leaders present their case to Congress, she said, "We are in compliance with U.S. law and with our obligations and responsibilities to report to Congress."]

Chamorro, who lives in Key Biscayne, Fla., said that what he described as CIA duplicity about the insurgents' goals and activities was a large factor in his decision to speak out.

While the Reagan administration was telling Congress and the public that the United States was funding the rebels to interdict arms shipments from Nicaragua to Salvadoran guerrillas, Chamorro charged, CIA officials were telling the rebels privately that the real goal was to topple the Sandinista leadership. Then, he went on, the agency never provided the support necessary to reach that goal.

Calero, former owner of the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Managua, said today he and other FDN leaders understood from the beginning that U.S. aid by law has been directed at

Continued